



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



MURPHY NAMED VETERAN OF THE YEAR

For many of us, Gene Murphy is known as "Mr. DAV," "The Van Man," "Commissioner," "Adjutant," or "Advocate for Veterans."

Last week at the State Fair's "Salute to Veterans", Governor Dugaard

compiled all of his titles and attributes and recognized and honored Gene by naming him "South Dakota's Veteran of the Year."

Dugaard says veterans like Murphy have brought freedom to many nations around the world.

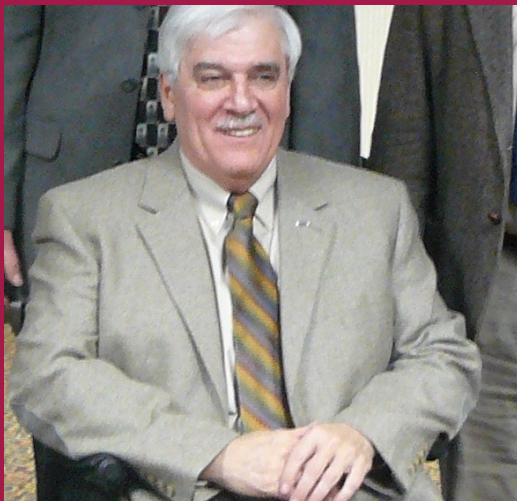
Where ever he serves, Gene serves with effectiveness, with vision, with inspiration, with mentorship and friendship. He has gained the admiration and affection locally, regionally and nationally for his unfailing presence and unflagging support for veterans.

Besides his leadership in numerous veterans service organizations, Gene has served on the South Dakota Veterans Commission since 1990.

Congratulations Gene, and thank you for all you have done for ALL veterans!!!!

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VETERAN OF THE YEAR

"It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing."

—Mother Theresa

VETERANS SALUTE AT STATE FAIR

During his address at the State Fair's "Salute to Veterans," Secretary Zimmerman, thanked those that have served, and those that have served alongside of our veterans. He outlined the resources that are available to guide veterans in receiving their benefits. Zimmerman noted that the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and our partners have some of the best resources available to guide our veterans through the ever-changing federal benefits. Benefits like the GI Bill, tuition assistance, housing and stipends for students, healthcare, pension, compensation, home loans, and more.

Zimmerman ended his remarks by stating that "the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs remains committed to improving benefits and services for all veterans from every conflict because we value their service and sacrifice."

Veterans attending the Fair had the opportunity to stop in at the Veterans Building and visit with SDDVA staff, County Veterans Service Officers and leaders within the veterans service organizations.



VETERANS HONOR MARCH

The South Dakota National Guard's Enlisted Association will host its 10th annual Black Hills Veterans Honor March and Marathon on Saturday, Sept. 21, in the northern Black Hills.

The march pays tribute to the many sacrifices made by this nation's veterans. Many participants also march in honor of fallen service members.

The 26.2-mile march is open to all military service members and the civilian public. Participants can compete as individuals or in five-member teams and can complete the course by walking, running or marching. There is also a 13.1-mile mini-march available for participants.

Marchers will start on the Mickelson Trail at approximately 8 a.m. (MDT) at the Rochford Trailhead and finish at the Deadwood Fairgrounds. The first half of this march will be uphill to Dumont, then, downhill to the finish line. The march can take between six and eight hours to complete.

Interested participants and volunteers can register for the event by going to the website:

www.blackhillsveteranmarch.com

or by contacting Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Lamp at (605) 357-2939.



Upcoming Events

Sept. 7—SDNG Watertown Readiness Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony—10:00 am
 Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—11:00 am
 Sept. 13—Stand Down—Watertown—Salvation Army (621 4th St SE) - 11:00 am
 Sept. 13-14—Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Retreat—Aberdeen
 Sept. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
 Sept. 21—Black Hills Veterans March—Deadwood
 Sept. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
 Sept. 25—Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—11:00 am MT
 Sept. 28-29—American Legion Golf Tournament—Webster
 Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
 Oct. 9—Stand Down—White River
 Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

FALLEN HEROES TO BE HONORED

The Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce is hosting a public viewing of the "South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banner Exhibit" from Monday, September 9, through Thursday, September 19, at the Tri-State Museum in Belle Fourche.

On Wednesday evening, September 11, at 5:30 pm, they will hold a special program honoring our heroes and placing flags and sashes at each heroes side. The flags and sashes will now be a part of the traveling display. Secretary Zimmerman will be participating in this program.

Special thanks to all those that contributed to the flag fundraiser. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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